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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on its work during 1999**

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** The present document contains chapters III–XIII of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. The general introductory chapter will be issued under the symbol A/54/23 (Part I). The recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly will be issued under the symbol A/54/23 (Part III). The complete report will be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/54/23).

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Chapter III

Dissemination of information on decolonization

1. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up the question of the dissemination of information on decolonization as a separate item and to consider it at its plenary meetings (see A/AC.109/1999/L.2).

2. The Special Committee considered the question at its 3rd and 10th meetings, on 21 June and 1 July 1999.

3. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, in particular, resolution 53/69 of 3 December 1998 on the dissemination of information on decolonization, and resolution 53/68 of the same date on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

4. The Special Committee held consultations with the representatives of the Department of Public Information and of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat at its 3rd meeting, on 21 June 1999 (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.3).

5. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Special Committee drew attention to the report of the Department of Public Information on the dissemination of information on decolonization contained in document A/AC.109/1999/19 and a draft resolution prepared by the Chairman, contained in document A/AC.109/1999/L.3.

6. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, owing to current consultations on the draft resolution, the Committee decided to continue consideration of the item at a later stage.

7. At its 10th meeting, on 1 July 1999, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/1999/L.3 without a vote (A/AC.109/1999/24). The text of the draft resolution in the form of recommendation to the General Assembly appears in Part III of the present report (see A/54/23 (Part III), chap. XIII, sect. G).

Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights

8. The Special Committee observed the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights during its Caribbean Regional Seminar, held in Castries, Saint Lucia, from 25 to 27 May 1999 (for details, see Part I, chapter II, annex, paras. 15 and 17).

Chapter IV

Question of sending visiting missions to Territories

9. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up the question of sending visiting missions to Territories as appropriate. The Special Committee further decided that the item should be considered in its plenary meetings and, as appropriate, in connection with its examination of specific Territories.

10. The Special Committee considered the question at its 3rd and 13th meetings, on 21 June and 9 July 1999.

11. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, in particular, the pertinent provisions of resolution 53/68 of 3 December 1998 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and resolution 53/67 of the same date relating to specific Territories. The Special Committee also considered Assembly resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990 relating to the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration.

12. In addition to the consideration of this question, the Special Committee considered the specific Territories referred to it, taking into account the relevant provisions of the General Assembly resolutions mentioned in paragraph 3 above, as well as previous decisions of the Special Committee relating to the question.

13. At its 3rd meeting, following a statement by the Chairman, the Committee decided to postpone the consideration of the item to a later stage of its work.

14. At the 13th meeting, on 9 July 1999, the Chairman drew members' attention to the text of a draft resolution contained in document A/AC.109/1999/L.8.

15. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/1999/L.8 without a vote (A/AC.109/1999/29).

16. By adopting at its 9th meeting, on 29 June, a resolution on Tokelau (A/AC.109/1999/22), and at its 15th meeting, on 21 July 1999, a consolidated resolution on 11 small Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/1999/32), the Special Committee endorsed a number of conclusions and recommendations concerning the sending of visiting missions to Territories, as reflected in its recommendations to the General Assembly in chapters X and XI (see also Part III, chap. XIII, sect. E relating to Tokelau and sect. F relating to American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands).

17. The text of the resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 13th meeting (A/AC.109/1999/29) is reproduced below:

Question of sending visiting missions to Territories

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories,

Recalling the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee requesting the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status,

Conscious that United Nations visiting missions enhance the capacity of the United Nations to assist the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and in other relevant resolutions of the Assembly,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand, as an administering Power, in the work of the Special Committee, and that, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, a visiting mission was dispatched to Tokelau in July 1994,[1]

Recalling the dispatch in 1979 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory of Guam, noting the recommendation of the 1996 Pacific Regional Seminar that a visiting mission be sent to Guam, and taking note of resolution No. 464 (LS), adopted by the twenty-third Guam legislature on 19 July 1996, in which it requested the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to that Territory,

Welcoming the commencement of informal dialogue between the Special Committee and some administering Powers,

1. *Stresses* the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration;

3. *Requests* the administering Powers to consider new approaches in the work of the Special Committee, and calls upon them to cooperate with the Special Committee in its efforts;

4. *Requests* its Chairman to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned on the implementation of paragraph 2 of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Special Committee as appropriate;

5. *Also requests* its Chairman to enter into consultations with the administering Power of Guam with a view to facilitating the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to that Territory.

Chapter V

Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

18. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up as a separate item the question of economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to consider it in its plenary meetings (see A/AC.109/1999/L.2).

19. The Special Committee considered the question at its 11th meeting, on 6 July 1999.

20. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including, in particular, resolution 53/61 of 3 December 1998 on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee also took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990 on the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; and resolution 53/68 of 3 December 1998 on the implementation of the Declaration. Additionally, the Special Committee took into consideration the relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the last preambular paragraph of the resolution it adopted on 6 July 1999 (A/AC.109/1999/26).

21. In 1994, the Special Committee, in keeping with its consistent goal of limiting documentation and streamlining its report to the General Assembly, recommended to the Assembly that, in preparing the general working papers on the Territories, the Secretariat should, where applicable, incorporate under separate headings those sections relating to economic and other activities which affect the interests of the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and those on military activities and arrangements in those Territories. By adopting resolution 49/89 of 16 December 1994, the Assembly approved, *inter alia*, that recommendation.

22. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it working papers prepared by the Secretariat containing, *inter alia*, information on economic conditions, with particular reference to foreign economic activities, in the following Territories: Bermuda, Cayman Islands, United States Virgin Islands and British Virgin Islands (A/AC.109/1999/3, 4, 7 and Corr.1 and 9).

23. At the 11th meeting, on 6 July 1999, the Acting Chairman drew attention to the various working papers prepared by the Secretariat which contained references to economic and other activities which affected the interests of the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/1999/L.9).

24. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/1999/L.9 without a vote (A/AC.109/1999/26).

25. The text of the resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 11th meeting, on 6 July 1999, appears in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly in part III of the present report (chap. XIII, sect. B).

Chapter VI

Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration

26. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up as a separate item the question of military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers on Territories under their administration and to consider it in its plenary meetings (see A/AC.109/1999/L.2).

27. The Special Committee considered the question at its 11th meeting, on 6 July 1999.

28. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, in particular, resolution 53/68 of 3 December 1998, in paragraph 9 of which the Assembly called upon the administering Powers to eliminate the remaining military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Assembly, and urged them not to involve those Territories in any offensive acts or interference against other States. The Special Committee also took into account Assembly decision 53/419 of 3 December 1998, in paragraph 8 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session. Furthermore, the Special Committee took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990 on the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

29. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it working papers prepared by the Secretariat containing, *inter alia*, information on military activities and arrangements in Bermuda, the United States Virgin Islands and Guam (A/AC.109/1999/3, 7 and Corr.1 and 14).

30. At the 11th meeting, on 6 July, the Chairman drew attention to a draft decision on the item (A/AC.109/1999/L.10).

31. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted the draft decision (A/AC.109/1999/27), without a vote (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.11).

32. The text of the decision (A/AC.109/1999/27) adopted by the Special Committee at its 11th meeting, on 6 July 1999, appears in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly in part III of the present report (chap. XIII, sect. H).

Chapter VII

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

33. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

34. The Special Committee considered the question at its 14th and 15th meetings, on 12 and 21 July 1999.

35. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 53/62 of 3 December 1998 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, in paragraph 20 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session. The Special Committee also took into account all other resolutions adopted by the Assembly on this subject, including resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, endorsing the plan of action[2] for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

36. The Special Committee also took into account the relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the third preambular paragraph of the resolution it adopted on 21 July 1999 (see document A/AC.109/1999/31).

37. At the 14th meeting, on 12 July 1999, the Chairman drew the Special Committee's attention to a draft resolution on the item contained in document A/AC.109/1999/L.11/Rev.1.

38. At the same meeting, in accordance with a decision taken by the Special Committee at the outset of its 14th meeting, Mr. Carlyle Corbin made a statement on behalf of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.14).

39. At the same meeting, the representative of Saint Lucia made a statement in the course of which he proposed amendments to the draft resolution contained in document A/AC.109/1999/L.11/Rev.1.

40. At the same meeting, representatives of Côte d'Ivoire, Chile, the Syrian Arab Republic and Saint Lucia as well as the Chairman made statements (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.14).

41. At the same meeting, the Rapporteur of the Special Committee, in further consultations with members of the Committee, introduced further amendments to the amendments introduced by the representative of Saint Lucia (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.14).

42. At the same meeting, the representative of China made a statement in the course of which she requested that action on the draft resolution be taken at a later stage pending consultations with her Government on the amendments to the draft resolution (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.14).

43. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to take action on the draft resolution at a later stage.

44. At the 15th meeting, on 21 July 1999, the Chairman drew members' attention to the revised draft resolution on the item contained in document A/AC.109/1999/L.11/Rev.2.

45. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/1999/L.11/Rev.2 without a vote (A/AC.109/1999/31).

46. The text of the resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 15th meeting, on 21 July 1999, appears in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly in part III of the present report (chap. XIII, sect. C).

47. At the 16th meeting, on 28 July 1999, the Chairman presented an oral report to the Committee on his consultations held with the President of the Economic and Social Council in 1999 (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.16), which was subsequently issued as document A/AC.109/1999/L.16.

Chapter VIII

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

48. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up the question of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and to consider it at its plenary meetings (see A/AC.109/1999/L.2).

49. The Special Committee considered the question at its 3rd and 10th meetings, on 21 June and 1 July 1999.

50. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the resolutions of the General Assembly concerning information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and related questions, in particular resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, by which the Assembly decided, *inter alia*, to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and to transfer certain of its functions to the Special Committee, and paragraph 5 of resolution 53/60 of 3 December 1998, in which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session. Furthermore, the Special Committee took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolutions 53/68 of 3 December 1998, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and 45/33 of 20 November 1990, relating to the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration.

51. At the 3rd meeting, on 21 June 1999, the Chairman drew the attention of the members to aide-mémoire 5/99, which reflected the dates of transmission of information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations by the administering Powers in regard to Territories under their respective administration, as well as to the draft resolution contained in document A/AC.109/1999/L.4 (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.3).

52. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to continue consideration of the item at a later meeting.

53. At the 10th meeting, on 1 July 1999, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/1999/L.4 without a vote (A/AC.109/1999/25).

54. The text of the resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 10th meeting, on 1 July 1999, appears in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly in part III of the present report (chap. XIII, sect. A).

Chapter IX
East Timor, Gibraltar, New Caledonia and Western Sahara

55. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up the question of East Timor, Gibraltar, New Caledonia and Western Sahara as separate items and to consider them in its plenary meetings (see A/AC.109/1999/L.2).

56. The present chapter contains an account of the Special Committee's consideration of these Territories (sects. 1–4 below). The recommendation on the question of New Caledonia to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session is set forth in part III of the present report (chap. XIII, sect. D).

57. In its consideration of the questions, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolutions 53/68 and 53/69 of 3 December 1998 and decisions 53/402 and 53/420 of 15 September and 3 December 1998 respectively, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

58. In its capacity as the administering Power concerned, and in accordance with established procedures, Portugal participated in the work of the Special Committee in relation to East Timor. France participated in the work of the Special Committee in relation to New Caledonia.

A. East Timor

59. The Special Committee considered the question of East Timor at its 4th to 7th meetings, from 22 to 24 June and at the 10th meeting, on 1 July 1999.

60. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/1999/10). It also took into account the reports of the Secretary-General on the situation in East Timor and the Agreement between Indonesia and Portugal on the Question of East Timor (see A/53/951–S/1999/513, S/1999/595 and S/1999/705).

61. At the 4th meeting, on 22 June 1999, the representative of Indonesia made a statement (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.4).

62. In accordance with its decisions taken at the 3rd, 4th and 5th meetings, on 21, 22 and 23 June 1999, the Special Committee granted requests for hearing from the following petitioners and heard their statements at the meetings indicated below:

4th meeting

Prof. Richard Tanter, Kyoto East Timor Association; Mr. John Miller, on behalf of Hobart East Timor Committee; Mr. Charles Scheiner, East Timor Action Network/United States; Ms. Mayumi Kawaharada, on behalf of Free East Timor Japan Coalition; Mr. Pedro Pinto Leite, International Platform of Jurists for East Timor; Ms. Saylor Cresswell, on behalf of Canadian Action for Indonesia and East Timor (CAFIET); Mr. Carl Senna, the Providence Journal Editorial Board; Ms. Sharon Scharfe, Parliamentarians for East Timor; Ms. Teresa Patriao Gouveia, Member of Parliament, Social Democratic Party (Portugal); Mr. Silvio Cervan, Member of Parliament, Social Democratic Center — Popular Party (Portugal); Mr. Martinho Gonçalvez, Member of Parliament, Socialist Party (Portugal); Mr. João Corregedor da Fonseca, Member of Parliament, Communist Party (Portugal); Mr. Adriano Do Nascimento; Mr. Roberto Soares Cabral; Professor Roger Clark, on behalf of International

League for Human Rights; Mr. Miguel Oliviera, on behalf of the University of Aveiro Students Union and the Foundation of Portuguese Universities; Mr. David Hutagalung and Mr. Ahmad D. Padang;

5th meeting

Mr. Michael Ede, on behalf of Australians for a Free East Timor; Mr. Robert Mewengkang; Ms. Jill Sternberg, on behalf of Japanese Catholic Council for Justice and Peace; Mr. Antono Sutandar; Mr. Dony Wisnuwardhana, Indonesian Students Association, New York City Chapter; Mr. Frank Fitzgerald, on behalf of East Timor for International Support Center; Mr. Gerry Regan, on behalf of the British Coalition for East Timor; Mr. Steven Waisapi, Solidaris Pemuda Indonesia; Ms. Lee Mason, on behalf of Campaign for Independent East Timor (South Australia); Ms. Sonya Ostorm, on behalf of the Swedish East Timor Committee; Mr. Ben Wainfeld, on behalf of Indonesian Human Rights Campaign, TAPOL; Mr. Hipolito Aparicio; Mr. Augusto Mendoca; Mr. João Pereira; Mr. Ponciano da Cruz Leite; Ms. Yulita Pinto; Ms. Terezinha de Oliveira; Ms. Nadine Farid, on behalf of Agir pour Timor; Mr. Dan Fietkiewicz, on behalf of the Catholic Institute for International Relations; Mr. Eliot Hoffman, on behalf of the Solidarity Forum for the People of East Timor (FORTILOS); and Mr. Ramidin Alan Purba, Forum Pemuda-Pemudi Indonesia;

6th meeting

Mr. Soenarto J. Atmojo, Forum Nusantara; Mr. Pratomo, LANSIA; Mr. John Miller, on behalf of the Australia East Timor Association; Ms. Tracy Moaviera, on behalf of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid; Mr. Juvencio De Jesus Martins; and Mr. Constancio Pinto, Concelho Nacional de Resistencia Timorense;

7th meeting

Mr. Octavio Augusto de Jesus Soares, East Timor Student Movement; and Mr. Augusto Miclat, Jr., Asia-Pacific Coalition for East Timor.

63. At the 5th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Portugal and Indonesia. They also made further statements at the same meeting in exercise of the right of reply.

64. At the 7th meeting, on 24 June 1999, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Special Committee decided to continue consideration of the item at a later date.

65. At the 10th meeting, on 1 July 1999, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Special Committee decided to continue consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its fifty-fourth session.

B. Gibraltar

66. The Special Committee considered the question of Gibraltar at its 3rd meeting, on 21 June 1999.

67. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (see A/AC.109/1999/5).

68. At the 3rd meeting, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Spain had requested to participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the question. The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

69. At the same meeting, with the consent of the Special Committee, Mr. Peter Caruana, Chief Minister of Gibraltar, made a statement (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.3).

70. At the same meeting, in accordance with a decision taken at the outset of the meeting, a statement was made by Mr. William Serfaty, on behalf of the Self-Determination for Gibraltar Group (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.3).

71. At the same meeting, the representative of Spain made a statement (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.3).

72. At same meeting, on 21 June 1999, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Special Committee decided to continue its consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its fifty-fourth session and, in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly.

C. New Caledonia

73. The Special Committee considered the question of New Caledonia at its 8th and 13th meetings, on 29 June and 9 July 1999].

74. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/1999/6 and Corr.1).

75. At the 8th meeting, on 29 June the Chairman drew attention to the working paper (A/AC.109/1999/6).

76. At the 13th meeting, the Chairman drew attention to the text of a draft resolution contained in document A/AC.109/1999/L.14.

77. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to waive rule 120 of the rules and procedure of the General Assembly, which required the 24-hour ruling before any draft proposal could be put to a vote.

78. At the same meeting, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.13).

79. At the same meeting, the representative of Fiji introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/1999/L.14 also sponsored by the delegation of Papua New Guinea (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.13).

80. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/1999/L.14 without a vote (A/AC.109/1999/30).

81. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/1999/30) adopted by the Special Committee at its 13th meeting, on 9 July 1999, appears in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly in part III of the present report (chap. XIII, sect. D).

D. Western Sahara

82. The Special Committee considered the question of Western Sahara at its 4th meeting, on 22 June 1999.

83. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/1999/11).

84. At its 4th meeting, on 22 June 1999, in accordance with a decision taken at the 3rd meeting, the Special Committee granted a request for hearing to Mr. Moulud Said of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Rio de Oro (Frente POLISARIO). Mr. Said made a statement at the same meeting of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.4).

85. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Special Committee decided, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its fifty-fourth session and in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly.

Chapter X

American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

86. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands and to consider them at its plenary meetings (see A/AC.109/1999/L.2).

87. The present chapter contains an account of the Special Committee's consideration of the 11 Territories. The recommendations thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session are contained in part III of the present report (chap. XIII, sect. F).

88. In its consideration of the questions, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 53/68 of 3 December 1998 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In paragraph 11 of that resolution, the Assembly requested the Special Committee, *inter alia*, to continue to pay special attention to the small Territories and to recommend to the Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination. The Special Committee also took into account relevant resolutions and decisions on the Territories adopted by the Assembly.

89. The delegations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, the administering Powers concerned, did not participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the Territories under their administration.[3] However, as a result of informal consultations with the Special Committee held during its substantive session in 1999, both administering Powers reaffirmed their desire to continue an informal dialogue with the Special Committee on the questions.

90. The Special Committee considered the 11 Territories at its 8th to 9th and from 14th to 15th meetings, on 29 June and 12 and 21 July 1999.

91. During its consideration of the questions, the Special Committee had before it the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on the Territories (A/AC.109/1999/1, 3–4, 7 and Corr.1, 8–9, 13–16 and 18).

92. At the 8th meeting, on 29 June 1999, with the Committee's consent, Mr. Carlyle Corbin made a statement on behalf of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.8).

93. At the 9th meeting, on 29 June 1999, with the Committee's consent, statements were made by Mr. Carl T. C. Gutierrez, Governor of Guam and Mr. Ronald F. Rivera, on behalf of the Guam Commission on Decolonization (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.9).

94. At the 14th meeting, on 12 July 1999, the Chairman drew attention to the text of a draft resolution contained in document A/AC.109/1999/L.15, and introduced amendments to the draft resolution (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.14).

95. At the same meeting, the representative of Saint Lucia introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/1999/L.15 and introduced amendments to the draft resolution (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.14).

96. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Chile and Côte d'Ivoire (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.14).

97. At the same meeting, the Chairman read out to the Committee the changes on the draft resolution from the previous year's resolution (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.14).

98. At the same meeting, following an exchange of views and statements made by the representatives of Chile, Cuba, Fiji, the Russian Federation and Saint Lucia and by the Chairman, the Committee, on the proposal of the Chairman, decided to hold informal consultations to discuss the amendments to the draft resolution and to take action on the draft resolution at a later stage.

99. At the 15th meeting, on 21 July 1999, the Chairman drew attention to the text of a revised draft resolution contained in document A/AC.109/1999/L.15/Rev.1.

100. At the same meeting, the Chairman made a statement (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.15).

101. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Saint Lucia, India and the Russian Federation, as well as by the Chairman. The representative of the United States, one of the administering Powers, also made a statement (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.15).

102. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted the consolidated draft resolution contained in document A/AC.109/1999/L.15/Rev.1 without a vote (A/AC.109/1999/32).

103. The text of the consolidated resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 15th meeting appears in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly in part III of the present report (chap. XIII, sect. F).

Chapter XI

Tokelau

104. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up the question of Tokelau as a separate item and to consider it at its plenary meetings (see A/AC.109/1999/L.2).

105. The Special Committee considered the question of Tokelau as a separate item at its 9th meeting, on 29 June 1999.

106. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (see A/AC.109/1999/17).

107. At the 9th meeting, on 29 June 1999, with the consent of the Special Committee, Aliki Faipule Pio Tuia, Ulu-o-Tokelau, made a statement (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.9). Statements were also made by the representatives of Fiji, Bolivia, Chile and Papua New Guinea (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.9).

108. At the same meeting, the Chairman drew members' attention to a draft resolution A/AC.109/1999/L.7.

109. The Committee decided to waive rule 120 of the rules and procedure of the General Assembly, which required the 24-hour ruling before any draft proposal could be put to a vote.

110. The representative of Papua New Guinea introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/1999/L.7.

111. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/1999/L.7 without a vote (A/AC.109/1999/22).

112. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/1999/22) adopted by the Special Committee at its 9th meeting appears in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly in part III of the present report (chap. XIII, sect. E).

Chapter XII

Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

113. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) as a separate item and to consider it at its plenary meetings (see A/AC.109/1999/L.2). The Special Committee considered the question at its 10th meeting, on 1 July 1999.

114. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly decision 53/414 of 2 November 1998, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

115. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/1999/12).

116. At its 3rd meeting, on 21 June 1999, the Special Committee granted requests for hearing to the Honourable Sharon Halford and the Honourable Jan Cheek of the Legislative Council of the Falkland Islands, as well as by Mr. Alejandro Betts, Mr. Carlos Moyano Llerena and Mr. Ricardo Ancell Patterson, who made statements at the 10th meeting, on 1 July 1999 (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.10).

117. At the 10th meeting, the Chairman informed the Committee that the delegations of Argentina, Uruguay (on behalf of the States members of the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) plus Bolivia and Chile) and Paraguay had requested to participate in the Committee's consideration of the item. The Committee decided to accede to the requests.

118. At the same meeting, the representative of Chile introduced, also on behalf of Bolivia, Cuba and Venezuela, a draft resolution on the question (A/AC.109/1999/L.5).

119. At the same meeting, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina made a statement (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.10).

120. At the same meeting, the representative of Uruguay, on behalf of the States members of MERCOSUR (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) and also of Bolivia and Chile, made a statement (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.10).

121. At the same meeting, following statements made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, China, Cuba, Fiji, Grenada, Indonesia and Venezuela, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/1999/L.5, without a vote (A/AC.109/1999/23).

122. At the same meeting, the representative of Sierra Leone made a statement in explanation of position (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.10).

123. The delegation of the United Kingdom, the administering Power concerned, did not participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the item.[3]

124. The text of the resolution A/AC.109/1999/23 adopted by the Special Committee at its 10th meeting, on 1 July 1999, is reproduced below:

Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Aware that the maintenance of colonial situations is incompatible with the United Nations ideal of universal peace,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 2065 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 3160 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, 31/49 of 1 December 1976, 37/9 of 4 November 1982, 38/12 of 16 November 1983, 39/6 of 1 November 1984, 40/21 of 27 November 1985, 41/40 of 25 November 1986, 42/19 of 17 November 1987 and 43/25 of 17 November 1988, Special Committee resolutions A/AC.109/756 of 1 September 1983, A/AC.109/793 of 21 August 1984, A/AC.109/842 of 9 August 1985, A/AC.109/885 of 14 August 1986, A/AC.109/930 of 14 August 1987, A/AC.109/972 of 11 August 1988, A/AC.109/1008 of 15 August 1989, A/AC.109/1050 of 14 August 1990, A/AC.109/1087 of 14 August 1991, A/AC.109/1132 of 29 July 1992, A/AC.109/1169 of 14 July 1993, A/AC.109/2003 of 12 July 1994, A/AC.109/2033 of 13 July 1995, A/AC.109/2062 of 22 July 1996, A/AC.109/2096 of 16 June 1997 and A/AC.109/2122 of 6 July 1998 and Security Council resolutions 502 (1982) of 3 April 1982 and 505 (1982) of 26 May 1982,

Distressed that, notwithstanding the time that has elapsed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), this prolonged dispute has not yet been settled,

Aware of the interest of the international community in the resumption by the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of their negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Expressing its preoccupation over the fact that the good level of relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom has not yet led to negotiations on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Considering that this situation should facilitate the resumption of the negotiations in order to find a peaceful solution to the dispute over sovereignty,

Reaffirming the principles of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and the peaceful settlement of international disputes,

Calling attention to the importance of the Secretary-General continuing his efforts to give full effect to the mission entrusted to him by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Reaffirming the need for the parties to take due account of the interests of the population of the islands in accordance with the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

1. *Reiterates* that the way to put an end to the special and particular colonial situation in the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) is the peaceful and negotiated settlement of the dispute over sovereignty between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

2. *Takes note* of the views expressed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina on the occasion of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly;

3. *Regrets* that, in spite of the widespread international support for a negotiation between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom that includes all aspects of the future of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions on this question has not yet started;

4. *Requests* the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to consolidate the current process of dialogue and cooperation through the resumption of negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25;

5. *Reiterates its firm support* for the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General in order to assist the parties in complying with the request made by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas);

6. *Decides* to keep under review the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) subject to the directives that the General Assembly has issued and may issue in that regard.

Notes

[1] See A/AC.109/2009.

[2] See A/46/634/Rev.1.

[3] For the explanation of their non-participation, see documents A/47/86, A/42/651, annex, and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/41/23), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77.